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CBS Tipster Arrested in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 20 (UPI)—The FBI today arrested Clarence N. Medlin, a tipster who collected nearly $10,000 from the Columbia Broadcasting System by promising information about the location of the body of former Teamsters boss James R. Hoffa and then vanished.

Medlin, 49, was arrested in a downtown New Orleans hotel on a federal warrant charging he was an escaped federal prisoner, agents said.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported that Medlin tried to sell the same Hoffa story to the newspaper Tuesday night and they turned him down. Later, they learned Medlin was wanted by the FBI.

CBS said it paid $10,000 to a free-lance writer, Patrick O'Keefe, for information about the location of Hoffa's body, and O'Keefe in turn gave the money to Medlin, who said he knew the location of the burial spot, off the Florida Keys.

But the tipster disappeared with the CBS cash during a trip he said he was making to the burial spot.

Medlin, an ex-convict who served time in prison with Hoffa in Lewisburg, Pa., was arrested on the basis of a warrant issued in connection with an escape from a halfway house in Greensboro, N.C.